

What is claimed is:

Claims

- 5 / 1. A method for providing broadcast group data, the method comprising the steps of:

providing, by a subscriber unit, a data service message to a data gateway,
wherein the data service message includes identity of the subscriber unit and
10 identity of at least one targeted host;

determining, by the data gateway, that the data service message is for group
data broadcast;

15 when the data service message is for the group data broadcast, temporarily
storing, by the data gateway, the identity of the subscriber unit and the
identity of the at least one targeted host;

receiving, by the data gateway, data from a targeted host of the at least one
20 targeted host; and

when the identity of the targeted host is verified, providing, by the data
gateway, the data to a group of subscriber units, wherein the subscriber unit
is included in the group of subscriber units.

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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the data service message further includes an identity of all targeted hosts operably coupled to a communication system to which the group of subscriber units is affiliated.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein the data includes the identity of the subscriber unit and the identity of the targeted host and the method further comprises the steps of:

10 comparing the identities of the subscriber unit and the targeted host contained in the data with the identities of the subscriber unit and targeted host that are temporarily stored;

15 when the comparing is favorable, replacing the identity of the subscriber unit with a broadcast address.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the data service message includes an Internet protocol address as the identity of the subscriber unit.

25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the data service message further includes a data request that requests data from the targeted host, and wherein the method further comprises the step of receiving, by the data gateway, the data from the targeted host in response to the data request.

30 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

providing a data request subsequent to providing the data service message, wherein the data request identifies the targeted host; and

35 receiving, by the data gateway, the data from the targeted host in response to the data request.

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7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining the group of subscriber units based on an active group communication; and

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when the active group communication would end prior to receiving the requested data, maintaining the group of subscriber units until the requested data is received.

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8. A method for a data gateway to process broadcast group data, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a data service message from a subscriber unit, wherein the data
5 service message includes an identity of the subscriber unit and identity of a
targeted host;

temporarily storing the identity of the subscriber unit and the identity of the
10 targeted host when the data service message is for a group data broadcast;

routing, on behalf of the subscriber unit, a data request message toward the
targeted host;

receiving data from the targeted host; and

15 when the identity of the targeted host is verified, providing the data to a
group of subscriber units, wherein the group of subscriber units includes the
subscriber unit.

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9. The method of claim 8, wherein further comprising the steps of:

receiving the data that includes the identity of the subscriber unit and the identity of the targeted host;

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comparing the identities of the subscriber unit and the targeted host contained in the data with the identities of the subscriber unit and targeted host that are temporarily stored;

10 when the comparing is favorable, replacing the identity of the subscriber unit with a broadcast address.

10. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of receiving the data service message and the data request message contemporaneously.

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11. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of receiving the data request message subsequent to receiving the data service message.

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12. A method for a subscriber unit to participate in broadcast group data, the method comprising the steps of:

generating, by the subscriber unit, a data service message that includes an identity of the subscriber unit, an identity of a targeted host, a request for data, and an indication of group data broadcast; and

providing the data service message to a data gateway.

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13. The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of generating the data service message to include a concatenated data request message based on the request for data and the identity of the targeted host.

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14. A data gateway comprising:

a processing unit; and

- 5 memory that stores programming instructions that, when read by the processing unit, causes the processing unit to function to: receive a data service message from a subscriber unit, wherein the data service message includes an identity of the subscriber unit and an identity of a targeted host; store the identity of the subscriber unit and the identity of the targeted host
- 10 when the data service message is for a group data broadcast; route a data request message to the targeted host; receive data from the targeted host; and provide the data to a group of subscriber units, wherein the group of subscriber units includes the subscriber unit when the identity of the targeted host is verified.

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15. The data gateway of claim 14, wherein the memory further comprises programming instructions that, when read by the processing unit, causes the processing unit to function to:

- 5 receive the data service message that includes the data request message;
and

separate the data request message from the data service message.

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16. The data gateway of claim 14, wherein the memory further comprises programming instructions that, when read by the processing unit, causes the processing unit to function to:

- 15 receive the data, including the identity of the subscriber unit and the identity of the targeted host;

compare the identities of the subscriber unit and the targeted host contained in the data with the identities of the subscriber unit and targeted host that

- 20 are temporarily stored;

when the comparing is favorable, replace the identity of the subscriber unit with a broadcast address.

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~~17.~~ A subscriber unit comprising:

a processing unit; and

- 5 memory that stores programming instructions that, when read by the processing unit, causes the processing unit to function to: receive an input for a group data broadcast; generate a data service message that includes an identity of the subscriber unit, an identity of at least one targeted host, a request for data, and an indication of a group data broadcast; and provide
10 the data service message to a data gateway.

18. The subscriber unit of claim 17, wherein the memory further comprises programming instructions that, when read by the processing unit, causes the
15 processing unit to function to:

receive a data input contemporaneously with receiving the input for the group data broadcast, wherein the data input includes a request for data and identifies a targeted host of the at least one targeted host; and

20 generate the data service message to include a concatenated data request message based on the request for data and the identity of the targeted host.

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19. A method comprising the steps of:

receiving, from a communication unit participating in an audio call with at least one other communication unit, a request for data from a server;

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forwarding, to the server, the request for data;

receiving, from the server, the requested data;

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forwarding, to the communication unit, the requested data via a communication resource that is supporting the audio call.

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20. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of forwarding, to the at least one other communication unit, the requested data via the communication resource that is supporting the audio call.

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21. The method of claim 19, wherein the method is performed by a data gateway.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein the request is sent on the communication resource supporting the audio call.

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23. The method of claim 19, wherein the request is at least part of a message.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein the request forms an entire message.

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25. The method of claim 19, wherein the request comprises an identity of the server.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of verifying the identity of the server prior to the forwarding step.

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27. The method of claim 19, wherein the request indicates group data broadcast of the requested data.

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